

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2003-424

September 11, 2003

CALAIS WATER DEPARTMENT
Proposed Rate Change Pursuant to
35-A M.R.S.A. Section 6104
\$142,103 or 38.07% Increase

PROCEDURAL ORDER

I. BACKGROUND

On August 1, 2003, the Calais Water Department (Calais) submitted its filing in support of a rate increase pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 6104. On August 21, the Commission received a petition signed by over 15% of Calais's ratepayers requesting the Commission suspend and investigate the proposed rate increase. Calais did not challenge the validity of the petition. Therefore, the Commission suspended the tariffs and began an investigation. On August 28, 2003, the Commission published a newspaper notice inviting interested persons to intervene by September 8, 2003.

II. INTERVENTION

The Public Advocate's Petition to Intervene is hereby granted. We also grant intervention status to Forrestine Wheelock, as lead petitioner

III. TECHNICAL CONFERENCE/SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION

A technical/settlement conference will be held in this case at the Washington County Community College in the Assembly Room beginning at 8:30 a.m. on September 16, 2003. Parties and any other interested persons are invited to attend the technical conference. Representatives of Calais Water Department will be available to respond to questions. Following the Technical Conference, parties will discuss the possibility of settling the case.

IV. WAIVER REQUESTS

The Calais Water Department has requested, by letter sent to the Commission on September 5, that the Commission waive the notice requirements in Chapter 110 § 712 and the additional filing requirements of Chapter 120 § 5(C). As discussed at a telephone conference attended by the parties on September 8, these waivers are hereby granted. Customers have received notice through both the Section 6104 proceeding and through the newspaper notice published August 28, 2003. Therefore, additional individual customer notice is waived.

Calais has already submitted the financial information required by Section 6104. The additional information required by Chapter 120 does not appear to be necessary at

this time to justify the extra expense production of such information would require. Calais has agreed to provide information as requested by the parties at the Technical Conference. Therefore, additional filings under Chapter 120 § 5(C) are waived.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 11th day of September, 2003.

BY ORDER OF THE HEARING EXAMINER

Joanne B. Steneck